

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 09314 190721Z

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SS-07 DRC-01 RSC-01 NSC-06 AID-01

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8207

UNCLAS HONG KONG 9314

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, XE

SUBJECT: HOUSE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE CODEL

REF: STATE 180205

1. CONGEN WOULD WELCOME VISIT CODEL TO HONG KONG WHERE SEVERAL DEVELOPMENTS MAY BE OF INTEREST.

2. THESE INCLUDE HKG PROGRAM TO BUILD MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM (SUBWAY); STUDY OF HONG KONG'S AIR TRANSPORT SYSTEM BY RALPH M. PARSONS COMPANY, LOS ANGELES, INCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF A SECOND AIRPORT; SURVEY BY WILBUR SMITH AND ASSOCIATES OF HONG KONG'S INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION NEEDS UP TO 1971; AND PLAN TO BUILD TUNNEL THROUGH HONG KONG ISLAND (SEE HONG KONG 8753, A-195 AND A-41 FOR DETAILS). CODEL MIGHT ALSO BE INTERESTED IN 10 YEAR PROGRAM TO PROVIDE LOW COST HOUSING FOR 1.5 MILLION PEOPLE, MOVE TO SUPPLEMENT FERRY SERVICE AND RELIEVE ROAD CONGESTION WITH WATER TAXIS, PLAN TO EXPAND EXISTING HYDROFOIL SERVICE TO MACAU WITH BOEING JETFOILS SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1974. IN ADDITION TO SUBWAY AND HOUSING SCHEMES, MAJOR PROJECTS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION INCLUDE HIGH ISLAND RESERVOIR AND EXTENSION AIRPORT RUNWAY. CROSS HARBOR TUNNEL COMPLETED AUGUST 1972 IS NOW HANDLING OVER 1 MILLION VEHICLES MONTHLY. CODEL MAY ALSO BE INTERESTED IN NEW CONTAINER TERMINAL OPENED LAST YEAR IN WHICH SEA LAND HAS US\$35 MILLION INVESTMENT.

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3. POLICY PROBLEMS FACING HKG OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO CODEL INCLUDE QUESTION WHETHER TO RESTRICT NUMBER OF AUTOMOBILIES IN IN CROWDED HONG KONG, AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS VERSUS POLLUTION RISKS FROM FISHING AND TOURISM INDUSTRIES OF POSSIBLE REFINERY AND PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX THAT LOCAL INDUSTRY FAVORS.

4. USE OF HONG KONG'S RECREATION FACILITIES INCLUDING GOLF AND TENNIS CAN BE ARRANGED SHOULD CODEL DECIDE TO INCLUDE HONG KONG IN ITS SCHEDULE. WE ANITICIPATE HEAVY HOTEL BOOKINGS IN DECEMBER, AND WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY ADVICE IF CODEL TO COME HERE.
OSBORN

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